



Dear Neighbor,

The 2008 General Assembly made history this session by bringing homeowners immediate property tax relief and significant reform to the state's outdated property tax system.

The Standards for Success, created by House Republicans, helped form the framework of much of the landmark property tax relief and reform signed into law by Gov. Mitch Daniels. Homeowners across the state will see an immediate average homestead property tax reduction of more than 25 percent, they will have the burdens of school operating funds and child welfare removed from property tax, and they will have greater control over local spending through referenda. Limits on tax bills are part of the Indiana Code, and the process has begun to include those limits in the state constitution.

All these measures were passed in order to bring your tax burden under control and to limit government spending so that government does not grow faster than your ability to afford it.

Long before the session began, my House Republican colleagues and I made clear our expectations for the 2008 session. We wanted the best results for Hoosier taxpayers, not Hoosier tax-spenders. We wanted this to be the year of the taxpayer, and we wanted to achieve that by cutting property tax now and capping it forever.


There were some additional provisions we hoped to include, such as strong state spending limits. We believe that if we ask local governments to live within their means, the state should have to do the same. Unfortunately, that was not ultimately adopted.

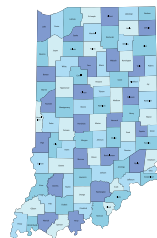
This newsletter includes details of the property tax plan that gives you immediate property tax relief and permanent reform.

No solution is perfect, but I am proud to have been able to join my House colleagues in supporting historic tax reform at a time when Hoosiers need it most.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Best wishes,


Bob Behning
State Representative



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Bob Behning
HOUSE DISTRICT 91
200 W. Washington St • Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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HOOSIERS *demand* *property tax* REFORM.

State Rep.
BOB BEHNING
delivered.





Immediate Relief. PERMANENT Reform.

The General Assembly's property tax plan, outlined by Gov. Daniels and the House Republicans' Standards for Success, created the largest property tax cut in state history. The plan offers Hoosier taxpayers immediate relief and the promise of permanent reform.

Help for Hoosier homeowners.

- Homeowners will see \$620 million in immediate relief for 2008.
- \$1 billion removed from property tax levies.
- Referenda empower voters to control or allow spending.
- \$140 million of planned relief for 2009 and \$80 million of relief in 2010.

Help for all Hoosier property-tax payers.

- The plan cuts now and forwards the process to cap property taxes forever through a constitutional guarantee of permanent caps of 1 percent of assessed value for homesteads, 2 percent for rental and agricultural properties and 3 percent for all others.
- The plan closes loopholes that allowed more government spending.

Help for local governments.

- At the county level, the costs of four child-welfare levies, juvenile incarceration and health care for the indigent are removed from property taxes. The state picks up these costs.
- At the municipal level, it removes from property taxes the remaining pre-1977 police and fire pensions, and it includes support for police and fire services. These costs are covered by the state.

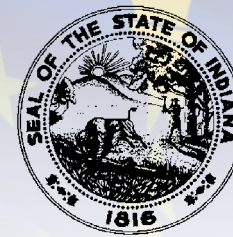
Help for Hoosier schools.

- The plan removes school operations and special education preschool costs from property taxes. The state will pick up these costs.
- It also includes \$120 million in circuit-breaker relief and increases the tuition reserve fund money to \$400 million.

Help for low-income Hoosiers.

- The plan includes an overall decrease in taxes for many low-income taxpayers, renters, low-income senior-citizen homeowners and the disabled.

Well before the session began...we wanted the best results for Hoosier taxpayers, not Hoosier tax-spenders.



State Representative
Bob Behning

I have always valued your input, thoughts, concerns and ideas. Here is some important contact information to reach me directly, as well as other important contact information you may find helpful:

Contact Representative Behning

Statehouse Office:	317-232-9600
E-mail Address:	h91@iga.IN.gov
Web site:	www.in.gov/h91
Mailing Address:	200 W. Washington St. Room 4-3 Indianapolis, IN 46204

Important Numbers

State Information Center	800-457-8283
Federal Information Center	800-688-9889
Indiana House	800-382-9841
Indiana Senate	800-382-9467
Gov. Mitch Daniels	317-232-4567
Sec. of State Todd Rokita	317-232-6531

Illegal IMMIGRATION Update

Immigration is another issue that came to the forefront this past session; not immigration in general, but illegal immigration. The issue was embodied in Senate Bill 335, which was authored by Senator Mike Delph (R-Carmel) and passed out of the Senate by a vote of 37-11. In the House, the language was amended into Senate Bill 345, which passed out on a vote of 66-33. The bill proceeded to conference committee, where it then died.

The illegal immigration language was modeled after a bill that passed into law in Arizona last year. In speaking with legislative leaders in Arizona, implementation of the law is proceeding well and effectively. Arizona has begun to use E-Verify, an easy-to-use and free program run by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration to check identification, for all new state employees hired after Jan. 1, 2008, as have thousands of other private employers. The law has been continuously upheld in court, most recently as the ACLU has tried and failed to get a temporary injunction in the 9th Circuit Court. I will continue to monitor the progress of the bill as we decide on what approach to take in the future.

I continue to be frustrated with the federal government and its unwillingness to address what, constitutionally, is one of the few issues it is responsible for. It has fumbled on this issue for decades. President Reagan attempted to address the issue, with mixed results. The states have been patient and are now saying, "Enough is enough." We must understand that the states not only have the inherent authority to enforce federal law, but our citizens have a constitutional right to expect our laws to be enforced. We must continue to pursue a balanced approach that, hopefully, will also send a message to Washington.